

Attorney Docket No: 20200/2092 (Serial No.:09/889,802)

Inventor: Kreutzer, et al.

Response and Amendment

Page 4

FIG. 3 shows a representation of radioactive RNA transcripts following electrophoresis on an 8% polyacrylamide gel with 7M urea by means of an instant imager.

FIGS. 4A-4E show Texas Red and YFP fluorescence in murine fibroblasts.

Detailed Description of The Invention --

Please delete the description of the figures at page 9, lines 6-24.

On a separate sheet of paper following the claims, please add the following paragraph:

-- ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the specific inhibition of expression of a target gene in a cell using a short double stranded RNA (dsRNA). The oligoribonucleotide is between 15 and 49 nucleotides in length, and has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene. --

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 226-231 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 221-225, 232, 241, and 243 as follows. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i-ii).

221. (Amended) An oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA), comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, and wherein the target gene is a mammalian gene.

222. (Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, having a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

Attorney Docket No: 20200/2092 (Serial No.:09/889,802)

Inventor: Kreutzer, et al.

Response and Amendment

Page 5

223. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

E⁶
224. (Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands.

225. (Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 224, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

E⁷
232. (Amended) A mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a double stranded structure (dsRNA) comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, and wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene.

Please cancel claim 240 ~~without~~ prejudice.

E⁸
241. (Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said 3' overhang is a single nucleotide overhang.

E⁹
243. (Amended) A composition comprising the oligoribonucleotide according to claim 221.

Please cancel claim 246 ~~without~~ prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 221-247 are currently pending in the application. Non-elected claims 226-231 are canceled. Claims 221-225, 232, 241, and 243 are amended. The amendments find support in the specification and are discussed in the relevant sections below. Specifically, claims 221 and 232 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 240 and 246, respectively, which are canceled. Claims 222-225 and 243 are amended to correct minor clerical errors. Claim 241 is amended to depend from pending claim 221. No new matter is added.